

**TESTIMONY OF Kal Patel, Meadowbrook Manor, Essex**  
***concerning Residential Care funding in***  
**H.B. No . 7027- AN ACT Concerning The State Budget For The Biennium Ending**  
**June Thirtieth 2019, And Making Appropriations Therefore.**

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Formica, Senator Flexer, Senator Markley, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services, my name is Kal Patel. I am a board member of the CT Association of Residential Care Home and Administrator of Meadowbrook and Essex Village Manor in Essex Ct. I am here to testify about residential care home rates and specifically our opposition to the continual flat funding of our rates.

This bill would jeopardize the ability for many homes to continue to operate and burden an already underpaid industry where owners are forced to spend money using a credit card or taking out loans for operating costs. We provide residence with 24 hour staff supervision, medication supervision, housekeeping, breakfast, lunch, dinner, recreation, and physical plant maintenance for approximately \$2850 per month. The sad truth here is that the amount it costs to care for our residents (utilities, employment cost, food, property upkeep and insurance) have gone up over the past few years but my rate has remained almost the same \$2850.

The vast majority of our employees who make a modest working wage had to accept a pay freeze. I've had to increase their health insurance contributions and drop family coverage. Additionally we've had to delay improvements and maintenance to the facility.

We serve 56 residents of which a vast majority has mental health issues. We are the first "line of defense" to help prevent some of these residents from unnecessary visits to emergency care at much greater cost for the state and society.

After years of being flat funded or seeing small increases residential care homes face a critical breaking point. Most of our costs are critical. Food, electricity, heating oil and insurance costs can't be negotiated lower and must be provided. Over the past few years these cost have risen exponentially yet our rates have been frozen and continue to be threatened due to rate freezes.

We ask that you please consider the impact of the budget on residential care homes. Many homes are already at a breaking point. Increased costs in gas, insurance and food expenses accompanied by capped rates have made operating homes very difficult. Without these homes serving this vulnerable population, the state would be spending significantly more dollars providing care for these individuals. Residential care homes are critical to many of these people who often live in the home for 20 years or more.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony  
Respectfully Submitted  
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